

NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 7TH DISTRICT

Dear Friend:

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society. Its long-term effect on children and their parents can be devastating. Since 1983, the month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month by the California Legislature. Our mission to prevent child abuse is a constant endeavor.

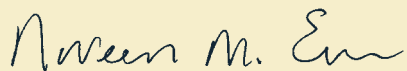
Your awareness of child abuse can prevent it before it occurs. Nationwide, there are approximately three million reports of child abuse each year. Forty percent of those affected are under the age of five.

If you know of, or suspect, any child abuse incident, please report it to the proper authority. There are counseling and support services available to help parents reduce the stresses that lead to family problems and to help parents and children who are victims of abuse deal with their emotions.

As you know, it is the right of a child to enjoy a healthy and satisfying life, and it is our responsibility as adults to protect our children from any form of physical or mental abuse.

For the benefit of our children, let's work together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Sincerely,



Noreen Evans
Assemblymember, 7th District



DISTRICT OFFICES:

50 "D" Street, Suite 301
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 546-4500
Fax: (707) 546-9031

640 Tuolumne Street, Suite B
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 649-2307
Fax: (707) 649-2311

1040 Main Street, Suite 110E
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 258-8007
Fax: (707) 258-8205

CAPITOL OFFICE:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
Fax: (916) 319-2107

E-MAIL:

assemblymember.evans@
assembly.ca.gov

WEB SITE:

[http://democrats.assembly.
ca.gov/members/a07](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a07)

If you think your child has been abused...

- **Believe your child.** Children rarely lie about abuse, especially sexual abuse.
- **Commend your child** for telling you about the experience.
- **Convey your support** for your child. A child's greatest fear is that he or she is at fault and responsible for the incident.
- **Don't overreact;** your perspective and acceptance are critical signals to your child.
- **Report the suspected molestation** to a social services agency or the police.
- **Find a specialized agency** that evaluates sexual abuse victims—a hospital, or a child welfare agency, or a community mental health therapy group.
- **Search for a physician** with experience and training to detect and recognize abuse when you seek a special medical examination for your child.
- **Talk with other parents** to see whether there are unusual behavioral or physical symptoms in their children.
- **Remember that taking action is critical,** because if nothing is done, other children will continue to be at risk.

Preventing Child Abuse

*Important
information
from your
Assemblymember*
NOREEN EVANS

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is any act that endangers a child's physical or emotional health and development.

This includes:

Physical abuse that causes injuries such as:

- *Unexplainable burns, bruises, abrasions, lacerations and scars.*
- *Head injuries, including nonvisible injuries resulting in brain damage.*
- *Bite marks and whipping marks.*
- *Injuries to internal organs.*
- *Unexplainable bone fractures.*

Physical neglect, which includes inadequate food, shelter, clothing, protection, supervision, medical and dental care.

Sexual abuse, which includes incest, molestation and child pornography.

Emotional abuse and mental suffering, as evidenced by emotional turmoil, behavioral problems, withdrawal, depression, apathy, poor self-image and failure to thrive.

Who reports child abuse?

Anyone can voluntarily report known or suspected child abuse to a law enforcement, welfare or probation agency. However, California law requires that certain specified persons report abuse to a child protective agency immediately by telephone, with a follow-up written report within 36 hours.

These persons include:

- Child care custodians.
 - Teachers, administrators and other school employees.
 - Day camp and licensed daycare workers.
 - Foster parents and employees of residential care facilities.
 - Welfare and probation officers.
 - Others who provide child care.
 - Medical practitioners, such as physicians, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists and dentists.
 - Non-medical practitioners, such as public health employees, coroners, paramedics, counselors and religious practitioners who diagnose/treat children.
 - Commercial film/photographic print processors.
 - Employees of child protective agencies.
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Where do you report child abuse?

Report known or suspected child abuse to the following agency:

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Napa County: (707) 253-4261

Solano County:..... (800) 544-8696

Sonoma County:..... (707) 565-4304

